

R 241303Z SEP 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0499  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
CIA WASHDC  
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
CJTF-HOA J2X CAMP LEMONIER DJ  
COMUSNAVCENT  
DIA WASHDC  
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
JICCENT MACDILL AFB FL  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 000324

DEPARTMENT FOR DS/IP/AF, DS/TIA/ITA, DS/IP/SPC/SO, AF/E,  
LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/24/2029

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [ER](#)

SUBJECT: SUSPICIOUS MILITARY CHECKPOINTS OUTSIDE OF ASMARA

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for Reason 1.4 (d)

(C) Emboffs received two separate reports of heavy military checkpoints on the roads leading out of Asmara on 09/12/09. The sources stated the scrutiny of persons and vehicles at these checkpoints was more intense than usual and it appeared that the soldiers were looking for specific persons. Post received an uncorroborated report that soldiers planted explosives on the Eritrean air force base which is adjacent to the Asmara international airport. This source stated an Eritrean soldier was shot and killed after he was discovered planting explosives at an unknown part of the base. Other soldiers reportedly involved in this incident fled the base in a vehicle, which resulted in the abovementioned checkpoints. Post also received uncorroborated reports of gunfire lasting for approximately 10 minutes later that evening.

MCMULLEN